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JACK ANDERSON'S WASHINGTON LETTER
April 1985

ASK JACK ANDERSON: ANSWERS TO YOUR OUESTIONS

"Does the CIA have a foolproof security system," asks a Greeley, Colo., businessman, "or could a spy infiltrate the CIA?"

The CIA conducts a painstaking background investigation of every applicant, who then submits to a grueling lie-detector test. The applicant is questioned about his finances, sex practices, social habits and associates. The questions are expertly drafted to uncover anyone who might be careless with secrets or be susceptible to blackmail. But my CIA sources say the polygraph examiners seldom ask the most obvious question: "Is there anything in your background, legal or moral, that could cause you embarrassment?" A few rotten apples, therefore, have turned up in the CIA barrel.